



**Grant Approved for FLM
Watershed Management Plan**



Great News! Friends of Lake Monroe’s application for a Section 319 grant for a watershed management plan for Lake Monroe has been accepted by U.S. EPA!

We will be awarded \$119,525 from the State of Indiana with matching funds coming from Monroe County Stormwater Board (\$37,500), City of Bloomington Utilities Service Board (\$37,500), and Sassafras Audubon Society (\$2,000). In addition, we will receive \$83,000 in services from the following organizations:

- League of Women Voters of Bloomington and Monroe County
- Indiana University O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs
- Conservation Law Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- Indiana University - Media School
- Jackson County - Soil and Water Conservation District
- Monroe County - Planning Department and Board of Zoning Appeals
- Monroe County - Soil and Water Conservation District
- Preservation Group Salt Creek

We are now finalizing the paperwork so that we can hire a watershed coordinator and get to work on the watershed management plan.

Melissa Laney and Sarah Powers of the IU O’Neill School of Public and

Environmental Affairs will be leading the field investigation, while Friends of Lake Monroe works on education, outreach and watershed plan development. We will be working with many other organizations and individuals to gather information about the lake, the watershed, and local stakeholder concerns.

We will also be needing volunteers to help with education, graphic art, outreach and water sampling. We hope that many of you will be pitching in to help us out.

Contributed by Sherry Mitchell-Bruker

Coming up: DNR Annual Shoreline Cleanup at Cutright State Recreation Area



The Friends of Lake Monroe, along with Hoosier National Forest, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the City of Bloomington Utilities, and the Monroe County Highway Department are assisting the DNR with this annual event.

Volunteers are needed for the following tasks: 2-3 volunteers to drive pontoon boats (some experience helpful); 3-4 volunteers to assist with the cookout that follows the cleanup; 2-3 volunteers to assist in cleaning the pontoon boats following the cleanup.

Volunteer times vary by task. Boat drivers need to be available from approximately 1:30 pm until about 5:30 or 6:00. Those assisting with the cookout need to be available at about 5:00 pm for a couple of hours, and boat cleaners need to be available at about 5:00 pm for an hour or so (stay for the cookout!).

Please sign up on FLM's Events calendar on the website at www.friendsoflakemonroe.org. More specific times will be provided nearer to the date of the event.

The Hazards of Monofilament Fishing Line



On some of my recent visits to Lake Monroe, I have found lengthy strands of discarded monofilament fishing line at public access sites. It's the clear, plastic fishing line used by almost everyone who fishes today.

If you have much experience fishing, you know how easy it is to get fishing line snagged on something in or around the lake—rocks, submerged logs, or trees on the shoreline. Often, the most expedient option is to cut your line and move on.

Since it's clear, abandoned fishing line is very difficult to see and is often only

detected when it gets tangled around your feet. Worse, monofilament fishing line is almost impossible to see under water. Left in the environment, monofilament fishing line can be a hazard to wildlife that live in and around the lake who become entangled in it.

Once entangled, it's very difficult for animals to free themselves, leading to cuts, amputations, starvation, and even death. Tangled feet and wings keep birds from walking and flying, making them vulnerable to predators. Animals can also ingest fishing line, impacting their stomach and restricting how much food can be ingested. Monofilament fishing line can also become entangled in boat motors, causing mechanical problems and inconvenience for boaters.

Further, monofilament fishing line is not biodegradable and can take up to 600 years to break down according to some reports.

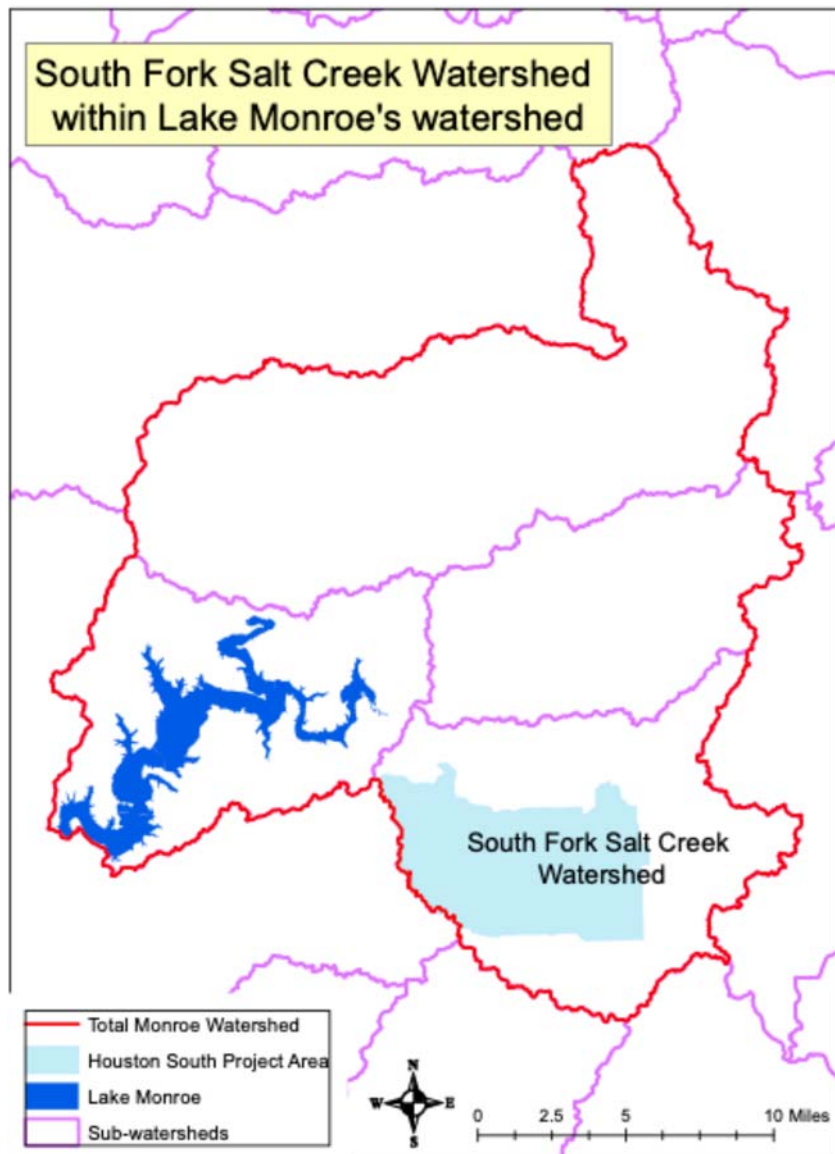
What Can You Do?

- First, if you fish, recover as much of your broken or entangled fishing line as possible. Be aware that leaving it in the environment threatens wildlife, especially if hooks or lures are attached.
- Spread the word! Let others know that it's important not to leave fishing line in the environment.
- When available, use biodegradable fishing line. A handful of companies have begun manufacturing fishing line that is advertised to degrade in 2-5 years. Give it a try!
- Recycle fishing line. Many public access sites now have a receptacle specifically for this purpose. The photo above was taken at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers facility below the Lake Monroe Dam. The Indiana DNR has placed fishing line receptacles at several of its properties: Paynetown, Cartop, Moore's Creek, Allen's Creek, and Pine Grove. According to Jill Vance, Interpretive Naturalist at Paynetown, fishing line is collected a few times a year and shipped off for recycling. Way to go DNR!
- If no fishing line receptacle is available, collect the line, wind it up, and cut it into 6-inch pieces. Dispose of it properly in covered containers so it does not blow away and become a risk to wildlife.
- Finally, whether you fish or not, keep your eyes out for abandoned fishing

line whenever you visit Lake Monroe or any other lake or stream. Collect it and dispose of it properly. Your actions could help ensure the well-being of wildlife that live at or visit the lake.

Contributed by Richard Harris

FLM Comments on Planned Hoosier National Forest Project



Friends of Lake Monroe and others have provided detailed comments to the U.S. Forest Service regarding the Houston South project in the Hoosier

National Forest (HNF). We found that the response to comments and the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of the project failed to adequately address the concerns of Friends of Lake Monroe and the public. The EA and response to comments can be found [here](#).

FLM's key concerns are:

- o The draft environmental assessment and response to comments failed to recognize the important role that HNF plays as the largest land manager in the Lake Monroe watershed, dismissing public concerns related to the potential impact of the project on the water quality of a municipal water source.
- o The EA relies heavily on the 13-year-old Forest Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, which pre-date vital information (referred to in public comments) related to Lake Monroe water quality and climate change.
- o The EA dismisses short-term impacts as insignificant.
- o The findings of no significant impact rely heavily on successful implementation and effectiveness of best management practices (BMPs), which is not consistent with the past track record or with the personnel available.

If you are concerned about this project, we encourage you to let the U.S. Forest Service know. For USFS's instructions on how to file comments, click [here](#).

Contributed by Sherry Mitchell-Bruker

Ask a Friend



Blue-Green Algae: An Update



The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has issued a recreational advisory for the Paynetown and Fairfax beaches based on the presence of blue-green algae in sampling that was conducted on August 5.

Paynetown and Fairfax are the only beaches that IDEM samples at Lake Monroe. The advisory was issued because blue-green algae exceeded the threshold value of 100,000 cells of algae per milliliter of water. The samples collected at the Fairfax and Paynetown beaches had 410,000 and 510,000 cells of blue-green algae per milliliter, respectively.

While this is not good news, it's important to understand that not all blue-green algae contain the toxins that are harmful to humans and pets. IDEM also analyzes the samples for the specific toxins that can cause health problems. Three of the four toxins evaluated in the samples collected at Lake Monroe were not detected at all, and the one toxin that was detected (saxitoxin), was present at a concentration significantly below levels that are believed to be

harmful to humans.

However, IDEM recommends that dogs not play in water when saxitoxin has been detected at any concentration. This is because dogs are more likely to drink the water than humans, and often lick themselves to clean their coats after being in the water.

Results of the testing are available on IDEM's website at <https://www.in.gov/idem/algae/>. Based on the cell count exceedance, the recreational advisory on IDEM's webpage is as follows:

"Swimming and boating permitted. Avoid contact with algae. Avoid swallowing water while swimming. Take a bath or shower with warm soapy water after coming in contact with lake water. Do not use lake water for cooking or bathing. Do not allow your pets to swim or drink water where algae are present."

Contributed by Richard Harris

Upcoming Events



Mark your calendars! Here's what we have coming up.

[See All Events >](#)

Thursday, September 19, 6:00 pm

Adopt-A-Shoreline trash pickup

Paynetown State Recreation Area

Wednesday, September 25, 6:00-8:00pm

FLM Public Meeting

Monroe County Public Library, Bloomington

Sunday afternoon, October 6
DNR Annual Shoreline Cleanup
Cutright State Recreation Center

Volunteer Opportunities



Check FLM's [website](#) for future opportunities, including monthly shoreline cleanup get-togethers.

Paynetown State Recreation Area Shoreline Cleanups

Thursday, September 19, 6:00pm

DNR Annual Shoreline Cleanup at Cutright State Recreation Area

Sunday afternoon, October 6

Got a friend or neighbor who should know about Friends of Lake Monroe?



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